



LeRoy Sparr trying to hitch a ride on a U-2 for NASA



LeRoy regaining his sea legs on a sailboat

Jim Stavridis is off to a quick start in his new career:

Official retirement was 1 July, and started immediately afterward as Dean of The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Boston. We've bought a home in historic Bedford between Lexington and Concord along the Minuteman Trail. I am also serving as the Chair of the Board of the U.S. Naval Institute in Annapolis and have an office in the yard overlooking Hospital Point, so I get back to the DC area fairly frequently. Commissioning Ensign Julia Stavridis, USN, Nurse Corps a few weeks ago after she graduated from Georgetown and she started at Bethesda this week. Will be set up fully in Boston by early August and looking forward to Classmate visitors!

I wrote a piece in *The Atlantic* about the 37-year voyage:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2013/07/37-years-in-the-navy/277424/> ■

John Kruse made it into the Hill's top 50 most beautiful people list (labeled as the "Man about the town")! Check out the link: <http://thehill.com/50-most-beautiful-2013/?n=20>

Below is a picture of Denise and John Kruse with Teal and Dr. **Dan Mitchell** with in the USNA '76 sponsored room at the Officers Christian Fellowship conference center in White Sulphur Springs, PA. A number of Classmates contributed to decorate the room.



Denise & John Kruse pose with Teal & Dan Mitchell in Pennsylvania

I've come to the end of the mailbag so it looks like I have a little room for a Hubbard Family news update. Barb and I spent a memorable vacation in Cocoa Beach, FL, in early July. We were joined for the week by Becca and **Billy Hubbard '01**, and their three beautiful children, Bella, Hampton, and Will. It was a lot of fun in the Florida sun and even got a full day in at Disney's Magic Kingdom in Orlando.



The Hubbard Family descends on Disney World

That's it for now – I look forward to seeing you at the tailgaters! Go Navy!!!

77 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 72%

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78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 78%

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As we gather this month for our 35th Reunion and recall old times and remember classmates and family I appropriately open with some fitting news. First I open with a little elaboration on the life of 13th

Company's **Mark Mooney**. As you may recall from a previous column Mark passed away on May 8th in San Diego, CA. After graduation he served in the Navy for five and a half years before leaving as a Lieutenant. He then pursued a career in telecommunications and hardware area networking for call centers. His last fourteen years he was with National Pen, the second largest ink manufacturer in the USA. Mark loved the job and how it challenged his skills to be very detailed oriented and knowledgeable about the systems he created and maintained. He had many hobbies- sailing his 30 foot sailboat every chance he got; being a member of the San Diego Mopar Club; restoring the families '71 Cuda with assistance from Jack and Lee; reading war history and Sci-Fi books and collecting them for the family's little in-house library; and traveling the world and USA. A devoted and family-oriented man, Mark is survived by his wife of 28 years, Carolyn, his brother Michael and mother Hazel Jane Mooney. Please keep Carolyn and all the Mooney family in your thoughts and prayers.

Our prayers and condolences also go out to Sheri and **Ray Luevano** over the unexpected loss of their son, Josiah. Josiah passed away on June 18th from pulmonary embolism. Josiah had been living in Colusa CA where he was working on his friend's family farm. Though he was only 25 it was he left a mark organizing fund-raising projects that brought the Menlo College community together - like support for veterans returning from Iraq; studying in China where he immersed himself in a culture that gave him a new appreciation of his homeland as well as a better understanding of theirs. To cite from the Menlo Park College memorial of him - as "a Chinese proverb says, birds don't sing because they have answers. They sing because they have a song. We have our own song: Josiah and our joyous memories of him." Please remember Ray, Sheri and their younger son, Aaron in your thought and prayers.

The circle continues in another area with the link in the chain unbroken as we saw new Second Lieutenants and Ensigns at Commencement this year. One reported was Jan and **Jim Fiorelli's** son, Ensign **Michael Fiorelli ('12)**. In attendance were **Vinnie Bellezza**, who stopped on his way from PAXRIVER River to Philly where he was picking up his son, Ensign John Bellezza, who is in the VP Rag in JAX; **Brian Rodgers**

('79), who is married to Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Congresswoman representing Eastern Washington; and CDR **Dave Behnke** ('95), a good friend of the Fiorelli family.



The Fiorellis on Commencement Day 2012

Bart Buechner's been working with **Joe Schmitz** to help with release of his *Inspector General Handbook*. On the drawing board for quite a while and the book has now been published by the Center for Security Policy (CSP). It turns out the release of the book in Mid-June coincided with the recent spate of government scandals, in particular, the IRS "targeting" of conservative groups, which was surfaced by an investigation by the Treasury Department Inspector General. Since this is one of the very few books ever written by or about IG's, Joe has been invited to comment in the media, including an Op-Ed piece in the Wall Street Journal and an appearance on Fox News. The book is available on Amazon. In the first month it was out it reached "best seller" status on AMAZON in its category, which is something of a specialty audience but still a significant achievement. The book announcement can be viewed at http://www.jespllc.com/media/126722/ig_handbook.pdf.

Near the end of June, **Hank Van Oss**, **Jim Vanderkamp**, and **Ray Kwong** were able to steal **Cecil Haney** from his office as PACFLT for over an hour to meet for a '78 lunch at the 7 Palms Restaurant at the Navy-Marine Golf course in Pearl Harbor ("But still when two or three shall meet, And old tales be retold.") Ray reported that it "was great to catch up and how well our classmates have fared inside and outside the Navy (as we approach retirement), and make commitments to get together again; proving that '78 is the closest group of any class from USNA". Cecil was gracious in inviting them to have the next '78 lunch at the historic Nimitz House. However, Ray thought he was over-extending when he said he would set aside the best guest room for him, to include a small name

plaque designating it as my room; very similar to the W.T. Door nameplate outside the Midshipman Sample Room in Mother B. Uh huh sure, Ray. Besides *maybe* Cecil said it because he knew that he might not be around after his confirmation as STRATCOM comes through. (Of course, maybe you can work a deal with his – to be confirmed relief, **Harry Harris**).



It's been a long while since we've heard from **Rich Polek** but he dropped a quick note to say that Alex and **Jack Christensen** drove through Chicago on their way to meet Jill, Anna and Marie in Denver for a western US vacation. The entire Polek family (Rich, Jennifer, Nadilee and Cole) rendezvoused with the Christensen men north of the city for some traditional Chicago style sandwiches. The time was short, but the quality of conversation was high and here's a great pic that Jennifer took of (left to right) Nadilee, Rich, Cole, Jack, Alex.



Atti and **Larry Galvin** wrote that their oldest son, Andy ('09 & Caltech '10),

earned his wings in Pensacola and is now flying with HSC-9 in Norfolk. Middle son, Danny (UVA '11), is living on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and working at the world's largest hedge fund in Westport, CT. Youngest son, Timmy, graduated from MIT this year, where he ran track and cross country, was the President of his PBE fraternity, and served as Battalion Commander of the NROTCU Consortium Battalion. The Battalion joins the operations of MIT, Harvard, and Tufts with those of Boston University, Boston College, and Northeastern University so he had a pretty big job. Timmy is staying at MIT another year for graduate school before heading off to the Submarine Force.



Belated congrats to **Glen Ives** who on May 23, was one of three recipients of Leadership Southern Maryland's most prestigious award – The Heritage Award. The Heritage Awards are intended to honor individuals within the community who embody one of the organization's three tenets – Leadership, Service, and Mentoring. This year's event, held at the beautiful Sotterley Plantation, called attention to the importance of meaningful and innovative service, while providing a networking opportunity for LSM alumni. Glen was the honoree from St. Mary's County.

On July 12, Major General **Tim Hanifen** held his retirement ceremony after 34 years of service in the Marine Corps. The ceremony was held at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA. Officiating the ceremony



'78: Tim Hanifen retirement ceremony

was recently retired, Tim's former boss and one of our class "firsties", LtGen **George Flynn** ('75). The room was filled with Tim's family, friends and lot of alumni. Besides his beautiful bride, Anne and their two daughters and Tim's daughter Becca, also present from the '78 family were Marla and **Al Baker**, MaryLynn and **Bob McMasters**, **Terry O'Brien**, **John Rudder**, **Tom Crowley**, **Tom Dudley**, **Clarke Orzalli**, Beth and **Greg Bauer**, Diane and **Kevin O'Keefe**, **Carl Abelein** and me. Other Naval Academy years present were **Greg Reuss** ('77), **Bob Walsh** ('79), **Rich Linhart** ('72), **Chip Gregson** ('68), **Al Thomas** ('81), and **Bill Moran** ('81). We know Tim will have equal success in whatever civilian endeavor he undertakes. Semper Fi, Tim!

With Tim's retirement that leaves **John Wissler** as our only active duty Marine. As this goes to print we are also down to nine on active duty in the Navy. Just think how many of us there were 39 years ago when we were sworn in as Plebes and how many remained when we tossed our covers into the air 35 years ago. Launchin' Spot Four – cubed out with stories and memories.

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

Perhaps it's the dog days of summer, or perhaps everyone's getting ready for football. Whatever the reason, I don't have much to report on this month.

B-J and **Bill Jones** checked in from coastal Mississippi, where Bill is still flying

for Delta. Last fall Bill and B-J were looking for a reason to escape the hectic planning of their daughter's wedding, so they decided to head up to Troy, AL for the Navy football game and tailgate party there. One thing led to another, and once the word got out, a '79er mini-reunion was born.



Navy-Troy 2012 (l-r): Bill Jones, Gary Thomas '84, Don Quinn, Craig Grabowsky

Attending the tailgater/reunion were Jean and **RADM Don Quinn**, who came up from Pensacola, FL. As I reported a couple of columns ago, Don is the Commander, Naval Education and Training (CNET) there.

Tami and **Craig Grabowski** also flew over from Huntsville, AL. Craig works at the Missile Defense Agency as the chief engineer for Ballistic Missile Target Special Programs. Ever humble, Craig insists the long-ish title is just a lot of words to say he's just a "simple rocket scientist." Since the game was held on the Marine Corps Birthday, Craig gathered all the Marines in the tailgater, and they performed the traditional singing and cake-cutting.

B-J reports that everyone had a great time, except that the wives had to listen to all the old stories ...AGAIN! Thanks, B-J, for the note and the photos.

My only other news is also from coastal Mississippi (sort of). **VADM Ted "Twig" Branch** (hometown Long Beach, MS) recently assumed the duties of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance (N2/N6). This is

the Navy's lead office for resourcing Intelligence, Cyber Warfare, Command and Control, Electronic Warfare, Battle Management, Oceanography and Meteorology capabilities, among others. Ted had just completed a tour as the Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic in Norfolk, VA. Congrats, Ted!

One quick non-Mississippi note – **Jim "Chainsaw" Crawshaw** checked in to say he has resurfaced (our class website had him on the "missing" list), and resides in the greater Las Vegas, NV area. Thanks, Jim!

And that, classmates, is a wrap. Remember, if you happen to be anywhere near the Yard during football weekends, please come out and join the '79er tailgate crew in the Gold lot near Rowe Boulevard. Look for the '79 flag. Karen and I will join the gang this fall – I promise I won't take embarrassing SHIPMATE photos (*well, not too many...*).

See you next month. Go Navy!

Omnnes Viri,

—Wiz...

80 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 96%

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Greetings Classmates,

Last month was great – I was actually able to write the column in my own home and had a great deal of input from the Class. This month I'm back to old habits, at 35,000 feet on my way to St. Louis for the Veterans Affairs Small Business Conference and scratching for input...alas...On to the MailBag:

This month included some new contributors as well. I received a note from **Liz Durham Hallinan**, teawithdogs@yahoo.com, who like the rest of us is making changes and enjoying life.

■ Hi Joe,

I have finally reached the point in my life that I realize that I am NOT 21 anymore. In fact this November I am thinking of doing a "still alive at 55 party". Some of the ladies from class of 1980 are getting together in October for another girls day out in Williamsburg, VA. I have also given up bedside nursing care after 16 years and put myself out to pasture working in utilization review of charts. Even my 10- year old terrier will be happy that I don't have to work 12



'79: Navy-Troy 2012 (l-r): Harolyn Jones (Bill's mother), Bill Jones, Jean Quinn, Michelle & Gary Thomas '84, B-J Jones, Don Quinn, Tami & Craig Grabowsky.